

If thou would'st read a lesson that will keep thy heart from being and thy soul from sleep, Go to the work and hills.—Longfellow.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Pioneers of West Augusta

A very large percentage of the families who built pioneer homes in what is now known as the region comprised by Greenbrier, Bath, Highland and Pocahontas Counties, migrated from Rock-bridge and Augusta Counties, Virginia.

Pocahontas people however, have special reasons, for being interested in the families that come from the vicinity of the Old Stone church, seven or eight miles north of Staunton, Va. Hon. Joseph A. Woodell of Staunton, Va., in his address, made at the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Augusta Stone Church, October 18, 1899, mentioned many things satisfactorily illustrating the history of the families in question, as to their reasons for leaving Ireland and seeking homes in the Valley of Virginia.

Mr Waddell thinks that John Lewis, who figures as the first of Scotch Irish settlers, located in 1732, on Middle river, (at first called Oubral's river) a few miles east of the present crossing of the river by the valley turnpike. With Mr Lewis, or very soon afterwards, many persons of the same race came into the Valley, fleeing from the province of Ulster, in Ireland, to free themselves from the restrictions imposed by the established church. Moreover there is no doubt these people had it in their minds to find homes for themselves and their sons and daughters, where there would be more room for enterprise along with more ample facilities for acquiring the means of living.

These people being Presbyterians, and firmly set in their ways, it came about that in Ireland, no one of their persuasion was permitted to teach except of the lowest grade; not even were the ministers of their choice permitted to officiate at their marriages, or even to bury their dead. And what was a greater grievance still with a great many no doubt, was the fact that they were excluded from all public offices, civil and military. It appears, that after waiting for years hoping for better times, thousands of the more energetic and self-reliant of these determined, masterful people, prepared to leave their native land and set out for the backwoods of America, as the great Virginia Valley, then was, preferring the dangers and privations thereof, to the oppressions of their native land.

They landed on the banks of the Delaware river in Pennsylvania, at or near New Castle. Here they lingered while making such preparations as they could for pushing through the wilderness to Virginia, west of the Blue Ridge mountains. With astonishing rapidity the backwoods was settled. And as the people had to come on foot, or horseback, they could bring but little with them, except implements of labor, and seed corn procured in the older settlements in Pennsylvania. Families located themselves according to their own sweet will and pleasure, not concerned about land titles, and after preparing rude cabins, set to work in clearing and farming patches for "raising something to live upon." For a year at least, the newcomers must have subsisted on wild meat, without bread or substitute for it.

By 1736, when Mr Beverly took out his patent for 118,000 acres around the site of Staunton, the central part of the present county of Augusta was quite numerously settled. But for twelve or fifteen years, the homes were scarcely better furnished than the wigwags of the Indians. As there were no tables, chairs, knives and forks, glass or china-ware, and the many things now to be found in the humblest homes. The mention of "cart wheels and tire" in an inventory dated 1770, is the first evidence of a wheel vehicle in Augusta County. But horses and cattle were plentiful, and in nearly every cabin "the big Bible" was to be found, and read morning and evening.

The strange thing about it all however, is to the effect, that no preacher was along with these early settlers. It looks as if the preachers of those times knew it would be of no use to try to preach to the Scotch Irish without being invited to do so. Hence it was not until 1737, we hear that "a supplication was laid before the Presbytery of Donegal, in Pennsylvania, from the people of Beverly Manor in the back parts of Virginia." In 1738, Rev. James Anderson, sent by the synod of Philadelphia, preached the first regular sermon ever delivered in Augusta County at the home of John Lewis. It is believed that by this time, Mr Lewis had moved from Middle river, to his final abode, two miles east of Staunton on the New Hope road, and if so here is where the sermon was preached.

The records show that "Robert Dook and Daniel Dennison from Virginia, declared in the name of Shenandoah, their adhesion to the call formerly presented to Mr Craig, and thereupon he was set apart for the work of the gospel ministry in the South part of Beverly Manor." Messrs Dook and Dennison had to make a journey of three hundred miles and back, to perform their part in setting Mr Craig as the pastor of the pioneer ancestors of so many Pocahontas and Greenbrier people.

Circumstances indicate that Rev John Craig arrived about the 1st of October, 1740. Feb 28, 1741, he attended Orange County court and qualified according to law to officiate as a dissenting minister. His residence was on Lewis Creek, about four miles northeast of Staunton. In describing his new home, he writes, "The place was a new settlement without a place of worship, or any church order, a wilderness in the proper sense and a few christian settlers in it, with numbers of the heathens traveling among us, but generally civil, though some persons were murdered by them about that time. They (the Indians) march about in small companies from fifteen to twenty, sometimes more or less. They must be supplied at every house they call at with victuals, or they become their own stewards and cooks, and spare nothing they choose to eat and drink."

In his phenomenal address, Mr Waddell traces our pioneer ancestry no farther than to Ulster, in 1732. I have been looking at questions, where did the Irish, the Scotch, and the English come from, and I am about settled in the conviction, that they are of Israelitish origin.

W. T. P.

Bits of John Brown's Press

Workmen who were excavating for an addition to the Selig building, Lawrence, Kan., came across several packages of decomposed papers and the rusted remains of an old printing press last week.

This is the spot on which the Herald of Freedom newspaper office, owned by John Brown, stood, and was destroyed by the order of the United States marshal in 1856.

The office and its contents were entirely demolished, and the ground on which it stood had not been disturbed in half a century. Many pieces of the old press and charred bits of decayed paper were carried away by citizens.

Hampshire Peaches

Romney, W. Va.,—William J. Voorhees, special solicitor of the United States Express company from New York City was here last week looking into the extent of the peach crop in this locality, as a basis for their arrangements to furnishing cars. Mr Voorhees, expressed the opinion that 400 car loads from Romney would be a conservative estimate and stated that he would report that estimate to his company. Joe Shingleton and others, who have kept in touch with conditions here, estimate the probable shipments from this place for the season at 500 car loads.—Fayette Journal.

W. J. McKeever Commits Suicide

From the Clarksburg News, we learn the particulars of the death of W. J. McKeever, who committed suicide in that city on Wednesday July 7 at the Glen Elk Hotel, by cutting his throat. Going to the hotel rather late he registered as McKeever, of Jane Lew, and asked to be assigned a room, stating he was being pursued. No attention was paid to what he said and his words were forgotten until the clerk going to the room at the hour McKeever asked to be called, and found his dead body in a pool of blood on the floor. An inquest was immediately held. It was found that the unfortunate man had come to his death by self inflicted wounds in the throat, which had severed wind pipe and jugular vein. A bloody knife was found on the dresser, and it is supposed the deed was done while standing before the mirror. The knife was an ordinary pen knife, with a dull, much nicked blade. For the past year McKeever had worked in the F. Burk's drug store, but was off on a vacation.

Young McKeever is of a splendid family and his rash act is greatly lamented by every one. He is the son of Rev. A. L. McKeever, pastor of the M. P. Church at Jane Lew, and is a brother of Otto McKeever, the celebrated preacher and lecturer. He was 33 years of age and was an industrious and well behaved young man.

It was about a year ago that McKeever received a patent on a very clever device invented by him. The device was the quick dumping of coal from cars or boats.

He planned the cars and coal chutes fitted with large vessels which could be hoisted out separately and emptied.

Coal and railroad men both have taken very kindly to the scheme and believe that it will come into practical use in the near future.

Virginia and the Railroads

After conference and correspondence with the governor, Attorney-General Anderson has decided to file a complaint on behalf of the Commonwealth before the state corporation commission, against the railroads in Virginia, on account of their refusal and failure to place mileage books on sale, as prescribed by the Churchman act, which went into effect June 18.

The complaint will ask the commission to proceed under act 146 of the constitution of Virginia, and under clause 19 of section 1313A of the code of 1904, to compel the railroad companies operating in the State to comply with the requirements of the act.

The commission is clothed with power to impose a fine of \$500 upon each and every road for every day of failure to comply with the law, and will, it is understood, take the case into serious consideration.

Not only have the several roads refused to place the mileage books on sale, but have jointly retained the services of Attorney William B. Mellwine of Petersburg, to fight the action of the corporation commission, and to take the case to the highest court if necessary.

It is claimed by the roads that the Churchman act is invalid upon two grounds: First, because the state corporation commission has the exclusive right to fix railroad rates in Virginia; second, that the act is in violation of the fourteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States, inasmuch as it allows special privileges to those who buy tickets in books, or in wholesale quantities.

For the present, the suit will be directed mainly against one of the roads, but all will eventually come in for their share of the fight.

The case has double interest from the fact that in it the roads claim that the commission has the exclusive right to make rates, while in the freight rate matter now being heard before the commission the roads assert that in making rates that body oversteps the bounds of its authority.—Staunton Spectator.

Western Maryland Buys Locomotives

The Western Maryland Railroad Company has ordered six large consolidated freight engines from the Baldwin Locomotive Works, deliveries to begin December 1.

The engines will be capable of hauling loaded trains over the steep grades on parts of the road. General Manager Albert Robertson says he anticipates a constant growth of freight business which will call for even greater increase of motive power. The road is developing traffic all along its lines. The coal trade alone is expected to be sufficient to require all the rolling stock and engine power provided.

The company recently ordered steel hoppers, gondola cars and other freight carriers. Some of these are being delivered.

It is reported that the Western Maryland will put on through trains from Cumberland to Durbin by the first of the year. The distance is 160 miles, and the proposed time is five hours. This will greatly increase the passenger traffic of the Greenbrier Division, and shorten the distance to Cincinnati, from Washington and other Eastern cities.

Imagine if you can, the House of Representatives turned into a grocery store, for that is exactly what it resembled when Representative Mann of Illinois opened the campaign for legislation to prohibit the adulteration of food, drink and medicines. The speaker Cannon's desk was fitted up with a counter, and here was spread out a collection of cereals, jellies, jams, canned peas, tomatoes, corn and beans, bottles of whiskey, gin and wine, cans and bottles of olive oil, sardines and many other things. There was also a set of scales complete with weights and measures, a graduate for measuring liquids and a funnel through which to pour them, all for the purpose of demonstrating that a pure food bill is necessary for the protection of the people.

Among the interesting demonstrations it was shown how some grocers use ordinary corn meal with the addition of "fillers" and coloring matter to make black pepper and how ground coffee is adulterated with a treated mixture of sawdust and bread crumbs. Much olive oil was shown to be nothing but cotton seed oil and so the exposures went through the many things displayed to eat and drink. There were many visitors in the galleries and a large membership on the floor of the House. At the end of two hours "impure food show" Congressman Mann received a tremendous ovation and it was conceded by most members that a pure food law of some kind was badly needed.

As for hotel accommodations, the Jamestown Exposition will be particularly fortunate. The question has been raised will Norfolk be able to accommodate the crowds that will flock to the exposition the whole summer long next year. Jamestown is six miles from Norfolk and hardly a greater distance from Portsmouth, Newport News, or Hampton. It is a few minutes ride of a number of famous sea-side hotel resorts: Ocean View, Virginia Beach and Fortress Monroe, or Old Point, the all year health and pleasure resort. Beside this there is in course of erection the Inside Inn, a permanent hotel which will be able to take care of two thousand guests.

Killed a Boy

Richwood, W. Va.,—At Cranberry, near Richwood, in Nicholas county July 7, the proprietor of a hotel at that point shot and instantly killed a boy of about fifteen, and shot a bystander through the wrist, inflicting a serious injury. The hotel keeper and the boy had trouble about two weeks ago, and when the letter went in to the hotel yesterday the quarrel was renewed, with the result stated.

RAILWAY TIES

Why Not Plant Them?

While experiments are here and there being made with steel and concrete railroad ties, the movement to introduce metal into this portion of railroad track construction has made but little headway, and the demand for wooden ties is growing every year. To meet this demand an exceptional opportunity is presented to lumbermen in the South, thus: Each year they are clearing up large tracts of timber land which is either adopted for farming purposes or else left to be regrown in timber by nature's own processes without the aid of man. If on these cleared areas young, quick-growing trees were set out the timber lands would be preserved and a future supply of ties would be assured, provided that the railroads generally adopt the use of preservatives for wooden ties in order to prevent the rapid decay which now causes such large numbers to be purchased for renewals every year. The South is, perhaps, better fitted to develop large areas to the growth of timber for railroad ties than any other part of the country, but principally for two reasons, one of these being the possession of much territory better adapted for the growth of timber than anything else, and the other being the numerous and mild winters, which produce rapid growth of all vegetable matter.

Last year the steam railroads in the United States used about 851,000,000 cross-ties or about 3,000,000,000 feet of lumber, board measure. Considering the demand of electric and other railroads beside steam lines, it is safe to say that the annual consumption of ties in this country is somewhere between 90,000,000 and 100,000,000. Although this enormous demand exists and increases year by year, the railroad companies have done very little so far as forestry experiments are concerned, to meet it. The Illinois Central, the Louisville & Nashville, the Pennsylvania, and perhaps two or three other railroad companies have set out some trees, but the total number planted is very small as compared with their demands, and the production of ties to come from these groves will be so limited as to hardly amount to a drop in the bucket, or, more properly writing to one stick in the woodpile. The railroad companies generally appear to be drifting along so far as future supplies of timber are concerned and trusting to luck to provide them. Indeed, their seeming indifference to the problem reminds one of the squatter in the old story of the Arkansas Traveler, who didn't mend his roof when it leaked because it was raining and who didn't mend it when it was dry because it didn't leak. It may be that the railroads are hoping that someone will discover an adequate answer to the tie question before over the time comes when it will not be possible for them to obtain a sufficient supply of even inferior woods to meet their requirements. But before all this stands the stern fact that unless the cultivation of timber is entered upon systematically and with great forethought, the supply of lumber for ties, telegraph poles and various other corporate purposes will fall far behind the demand.

In the South pine, oak, cypress are used for ties, with some chestnut, some hemlock and a little of other woods. Catalpa has been tested and found satisfactory, and at least two railroad companies have set out catalpa trees to aid in supplying them with ties some years hence. The South used about 14,000,000 pine ties last year, or 81 per cent. of the total of pine ties used in the entire country, besides about 18,000,000 oak ties, or 33 per cent. of the total, and more than 8,000,000 cypress ties. Pine ties have proved satisfactory and when treated with preservatives last for many years, and their life of usefulness could be prolonged if tieplates were

generally employed to prevent the cutting of ties by the rails in service. Some experts in railroad construction incline to the view that tieplates must be adopted for economy's sake and it is said that their use is at its best when they are fastened with screw spikes. They are also made heavier than they were when first tried, as the metal then employed was too thin and bent under the pressure of trains. Wooden ties when treated with creosote or other preservatives will last about three times as long as untreated ties, and their use combined with the tieplates may, it appears, do more toward establishing a balance between the demand for ties and the supply of them than almost anything else, although even with these economies the cultivation of timber for the purpose must be undertaken.

If the railroad companies continue to show such apparent indifference to the question of providing for the supplies in the future, should not the lumber companies avail themselves of the opportunity that is presented to them and enter upon tree planting as fast as they clear their tracts? Such a course of procedure would seem to be excellent business policy. The lumber companies have the land which is suitable for the cultivation of forests and they have the means to grow them to much more rapid than it was when nature was assisted by the direction and placement of man.

Manufactures Record.

Beer and Stogies

There were two hundred stogies and half keg of beer made in Wheeling in the month of June for every man, woman and child in the city. That is the only way of explaining how many thousands barrels of home brewed beer and stogies were turned out, while relative to the tobacco it might be stated that there was consumed in the manufacture of tobacco products 10 pounds for every man, woman and child in Wheeling and Benwood. The figures are large when one considers the fact that wheeling has a population of over 40,000. Nevertheless these statements are born out in the office of Col. Alex Campbell, the internal revenue collector. His books show that in June there was paid taxes upon 31,450 kegs of beer and upon 9,280,000 stogies and upon 434,900 pounds of tobacco.—Fayette Journal.

Stover the Man for the Place

When the lumber dealers of the State chose K. H. Stover of this city as their Secretary, they made a fortunate and wise choice. Stover since his selection to that important position has aided immeasurably the business of the lumber dealers in his transactions with the eastern and western markets. He has been instrumental in facilitating shipments of lumber; he has brought the men of this business into closer contact; he has materially strengthened the organization of which he is secretary. Energetic, genial and shrewd, he has made himself invaluable to the association.—Randolph Enterprise.

Hand Cut Off

Chester Simmons of Shryock, Greenbrier county, the thirteen year-old son of O. D. Simmons had his right hand horribly mangled in a sawmill near Shryock Thursday morning. He was taken in a buggy eighteen miles to White Sulphur, meeting on the way Dr. Wyatt, who had been telephoned for, to stop the bleeding. After the hemorrhage was checked he was sent on a freight train to the Hinton Hospital, arriving about 8 o'clock. The entire hand except the thumb had to be amputated. The little fellow had his nerve with him and is in fine spirits today.—Hinton Leader.

This is the season of year when the weary professional man goes to a northern fishing resort for a change and rest. After disposing of all his change he comes home to rest.—Ex.

BRUTAL OUTRAGE

Awful Crime at Ronceverte

One of the most infamous and shocking crimes known in the history of the county was perpetrated in Ronceverte on last Monday night, and as a result Paxton Grove, Walter McCallister, John Barley and Tom Dollin are in the county jail at Lewisburg awaiting the action of the grand jury.

Nora Breeden, a country girl of about 18 years, ran away from her home near Basic, Va., with her lover, Harvey H. Merica, and came to Ronceverte on the midnight C. & O. train Monday night, intending to continue their journey to Lewisburg next morning, where they would procure a license to marry. At this late hour all the lodging houses were closed and not feeling able to afford the expense of stopping at one of the hotels they decided to remain at the station until morning, and were locked in one of the waiting rooms by Larus Butt, the employe in charge.

After the station was deserted Dollin and Barley appeared at the waiting-room, Dollin wearing a badge and impersonating an officer. Merica was called outside and told that he was under arrest. He was taken some distance up the street and fined twenty five dollars. Not having that much money on his person the fine was reduced to five dollars which amount was paid over to the thugs.

Immediately after Merica was taken away, Grove and McCallister took the girl from the station to a lumber yard several hundred yards away and out ragged her. She was then abandoned by her brutal assailants and left to wander aimlessly about until found by citizens after daybreak, to whom she told her condition.

As soon as the particulars became known Grove, McCallister and Barley were arrested and the Prosecuting Attorney was sent for.

A preliminary hearing was held at 5 p. m. Tuesday afternoon before Mayor Patton, the result of which was that Grove and McCallister, principals in the crime were held without bail to await action of the grand jury. Barley was held for complicity in the sum of \$500, and being unable to give bond, was taken with the other two to Lewisburg and lodged in jail.

Tom Dollin, the fourth man charged with complicity in the brutal crime, was captured in the brush about two miles east of town Tuesday evening. He was brought here, but noting the intense indignation of the people he waived examination and was at once taken to jail.

We understand that a special grand jury will be impaneled at once and the parties brought to speedy trial.

Merica and Miss Breeden were married here by Rev Wm. Phillips of the Christian church.

There is a feeling of deep indignation among our citizens that such a crime should occur in Ronceverte. Mr. A. C. Hill, C. & O. agent, is using every endeavor to bring about speedy justice, and the matter is being taken up by high officials of the road. McCallister and Barley are employes of the C. & O.—W. Va. News

Elkins Also

West Virginia should arouse herself and give Elkins the same kind of a nose Delaware gave Addicks. If the little state of Delaware refused to be bought with money, why shouldn't West Virginia do the same thing? We are sorry to say that in looking over many Republican newspapers in this state and note their recent change in sentiment, leads one to believe that money talks with some people, at least. When will manhood assert itself against the corrupt use of money? We hope this will be the year that West Virginians will free themselves.—Buchanan Banner.

Royal Blue Grass

Next in importance to the divine profusion of water, light and air, those three great physical facts which render existence possible, may be reckoned the universal beneficence of grass. Exaggerated by tropical heat and vapors to the gigantic cane congested with its saccharine secretion, or dwarfed by polar rigors to the fibrous hair of Northern solitudes, embracing between these extremes the maize with its resolute penons, the rice plant of Southern swamps, the wheat, rye, barley, oats, and other cereals, no less than the humble verdure of hill-side pasture and prairie in the temperate zone, grass is the most widely distributed of all vegetable beings, and at once a type of our life and the emblem of our mortality. Lying in the sunshine among the buttercups and the dandelions of May, scarcely higher in intelligence than the minute tenants of that mimic wilderness, our earliest recollections are of grass; and when the fitful fever is ended, and the foolish wrangle of the market and forum is closed, grass heals over the scars which our descent into the bosom of the earth has made, and the carpet of the infant becomes the blanket of

Grass is the forgiveness of Nature, her constant benediction. Fields tramped with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic becomes grass-grown like rural lanes and are obliterated. Forests decay harvest perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. Beleguered by the sullen hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortresses of its subterranean vitality and emerges upon the first solicitation of spring. Sown by the winds, by wandering birds, propagated by the subtle horticulturists of the elements which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. Its tenacious fibers hold the earth in its place, and prevents its soluble components from washing into the wasting sea. It invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and forbidding pinnacles of mountains, modifies climates and determines the history, character and destiny of nations. Unobstructive and patient it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfare and the field, its bides it time to return, and when vigilance is relaxed, or the dynasty has perished it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled, but which it never abdicates. It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet, should its harvest fail for a single year famine would depopulate the world.

One grass differs from another grass in glory. One is vulgar and another a patrician. There are grades in its vegetable nobility. Some varieties are useful. Some are beautiful. Others combine utility and ornament. The sour, reedy herbage of the swamps is baseborn. Timothy is a valuable servant. Red clover is a degree higher in the social scale. But the king of them all, with genuine blood royal, is blue grass. Why it is called blue grass that it is most vividly and intensely green, is inexplicable; but its unknown priest baptised it with all the hues of prism, he would not have changed its hereditary title to imperial superiority over all its humbler kin.—John J. Ingalls.

Teachers Examination

The second teachers examination will be held at Marlinton, Thursday and Friday July 19th and 20th. Examination will begin at 7 a. m. J. B. GAMES, Co Supt.